# **Armed Forces Pest Management Board**TECHNICAL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 35



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## TERMITE INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
FOREWORD	ii
INTRODUCTION	1
INSPECTION SCHEDULES	1

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Property Protection Committee of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB). The

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Committee when this TIM was drafted, and the members of the committee.

1Lt Craig Forcum of the AFPMB's Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center

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**FORWARD** 

The AFPMB prepared this Technical Information Memorandum to provide information on termite

inspection frequency for installation pest management programs. This TIM will be updated as the

AFPMB, Real Property Protection Committee, adds additional information or as the U. S.

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, revises the subterranean termite relative hazard map.

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ii

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Three distinct types of termites are recognized, based on the location of their colony: drywood, dampwood, and subterranean. Drywood termites build their nests above ground in dry wood; dampwood termites nest in moist, decaying wood but can later excavate into dry wood; and subterranean termites are dependent on an external water source. Subterranean termite nests are usually located in soil with tunnels connecting the nest to outside wood sources.

Early detection of termites and subsequent control are necessary to prevent substantial damage to wooden structures. Careful inspections at regular intervals will greatly aid in the detection of termite infestations. Termites can typically be detected and controlled before their feeding becomes a structural problem. Termite damage to the wood itself often goes undetected due to the termites' aversion to air, which rapidly dehydrates them. The exterior surface of the wood may seem intact, while the interior can be severely damaged. With proper routine inspections, little termite damage should result before discovery of termite infestations.

Installation pest management plans will clearly indicate the termite inspection frequency established for each installation. The plans will also identify any structures for which the inspection frequency deviates from that established for the installation. Termite inspection schedules for structures are to be based on the relative hazard of subterranean termite infestations, as shown on the attached map (Figure 1). This relative hazard map was developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service (FS). The Armed Forces Pest Management Board will issue updates of Figure 1 as it is revised by the USDA, FS.

#### II. INSPECTION SCHEDULES

Inspection schedules will be established to reflect the following frequency:

(1) Annually at installations in Region I (Relative Hazard: Very Heavy) where the major command pest management consultant has determined that local conditions warrant annual inspections or where Formosan subterranean termites or drywood termites are established.

- (2) Biennially at installations in Regions I, II, and III (Relative Hazard: Very Heavy, Moderate to Heavy, Slight to Moderate, respectively) where the criteria in paragraph (1) above, are not met.
- (3) Triennially at installations in Region IV (Relative Hazard: None to Slight).

For more information on termite inspection and management consult the *Military Pest Management Handbook: Chapter 9, Wood Destroying Insects*. Copies of the handbook are available from the Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center.